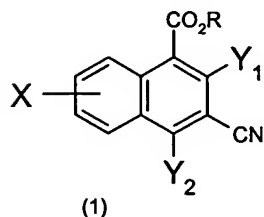


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Amendments to the Claims

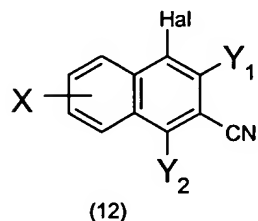
The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) A process for preparing a ~~the~~ compound of formula (1)



wherein X, ~~and/or~~ Y₁, ~~and~~ and/or Y₂ are independently H, cyano, nitro, trifluoromethoxy, trifluoromethyl, alkoxy, or alkyl, and R is H or alkyl, wherein either

- a) ~~in the case where~~ when R=H, ~~by the process comprises~~ metallo-dehalogenation followed by carboxylation of a compound of formula (12)

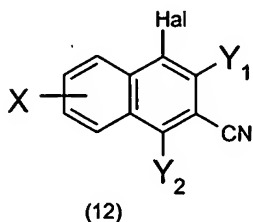


wherein X, Y₁ and Y₂ are as defined above, and Hal is Br, I or Cl;

or

- b) ~~(in the case where~~ when R=H or alkyl, ~~) by the process~~ comprises palladium-mediated carbonylation of a compound of

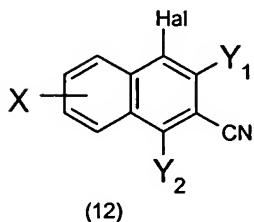
formula (12)



with the proviso that the compound 1-iodo-3-cyano-2-methoxynaphthalene is excluded, followed by solvolysis of the carbonylated compound.

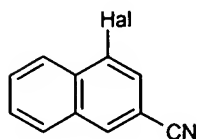
2. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The process for preparing the compound of formula (1) according to claim 1 wherein, characterized in ~~that~~ step a) is carried out by treatment of the compound of formula (12) with an alkyl-lithium reagent followed by reaction of the lithiated intermediate with carbon dioxide and then acidification.

3. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~ A compound of formula (12),



wherein X, ~~and/or~~ Y1 and ~~and/or~~ Y2 are independently H, cyano, nitro, trifluoromethoxy, trifluoromethyl, alkoxy, or alkyl and Hal is Br, I or Cl, with the proviso that the compounds 1-iodo-3-cyano-2-methoxynaphthalene and 1-chloro-3-cyano-2-methoxynaphthalene are excluded.

4. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The process according to claim 1, for preparing a compound of formula (12, $Y_1=Y_2=X=H$) ,



(12, $Y_1=Y_2=X=H$)

wherein Hal is Br, I or Cl ,

wherein the process comprises a reaction sequence selected from the group consisting of:

(i) ~~by~~

(a) treating malic acid ~~(7)~~ with a oleum or alternative strongly acid dehydrating media to give coumalic acid ~~(8)~~;

(b) esterifying coumalic acid ~~(8)~~ to give a pyrone ester ~~(9)~~;

(c) brominating the pyrone ester ~~(9)~~ to give a 3-bromo coumalic ester ~~(10)~~;

(d) reacting the 3-bromo coumalic ester ~~(10)~~ with *in situ* generated benzyne followed by decarboxylation to give a bromonaphthoate ~~(11)~~; and

(e) converting the ~~converting/transforming~~ bromonaphthoate ~~(11)~~ to 1-bromo-3-cyano naphthalene; ~~(12, $Y_1=Y_2=X=H$)~~

(ii)

~~by~~

(a) treating malic acid ~~(7)~~ with a oleum or alternative strongly acid dehydrating media to give coumalic acid ~~(8)~~;

(b) converting coumalic acid ~~(8)~~ into coumalonitrile ~~(25)~~ and subsequently brominating to give 3-bromo-5-coumalonitrile ~~(27)~~; and then

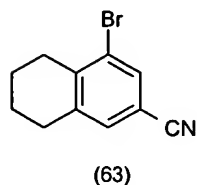
(c) converting 3-bromo-5-coumalonitrile ~~(27)~~ into 1-bromo-3-cyano naphthalene ~~(12, Y₁=Y₂=X=H)~~

by cycloaddition of *in situ* generated benzyne, followed by subsequent decarboxylation

~~or~~ and (iii)

by

(a) ~~1a)~~ cyanation of 1,2,3,4-tetrahydronaphthalene followed by bromination to give compound (63)



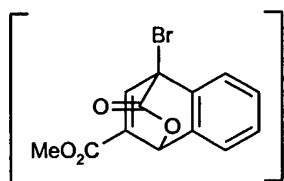
or

(b) ~~1b)~~ bromination of 1,2,3,4-tetrahydronaphthalene followed by cyanodebromination, followed by bromination to give the compound of formula (63); or

(c) ~~1c)~~ bromination of 1,2,3,4-tetrahydronaphthalene followed by carboxylation followed by conversion to the 6-cyano-1,2,3,4-tetrahydronaphthalene followed by bromination to give compound (63); followed by

c1) ~~2)~~ oxidative aromatization of compound (63) into 1-bromo-3-cyano naphthalene ~~(12, Y₁=Y₂=X=H)~~.

5. (Currently Amended) A The process according to claim 4,
wherein the reaction of the ester with benzyne in step (d) of
process (i) generates an intermediate having structure (15)
~~characterized in that in process (i) step (d) is the reaction of~~
~~the ester with benzyne carried out by reacting a 3-bromo~~
~~coumalic ester (10) with in situ generated benzyne to give an~~
~~intermediate (15)~~

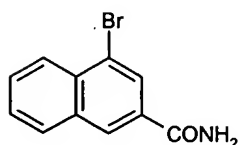


(15)

which intermediate is decarboxylated ~~followed by decarboxylation~~
to give the a bromonaphthoate ~~(11)~~.

6. (Currently Amended) A The process according to claim 4,
wherein ~~characterized in that in process (i)~~ step (e) of process
(i) is carried out by means selected from the group consisting
of: either

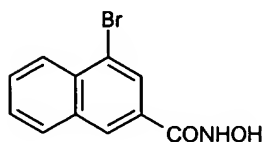
e1) reaction of the bromonaphthoate compound ~~(11)~~ with ammonia
to give compound (18)



(18)

followed by dehydration to give the cyano compound; ~~(12)~~

e2) reaction of the bromonaphthoate compound ~~(11)~~ with hydroxylamine ~~hydroxylamin~~ or a salt thereof to give compound (20);

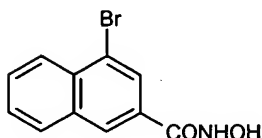


(20)

followed by dehydration to give the cyano compound; ~~(12)~~ and ~~or~~

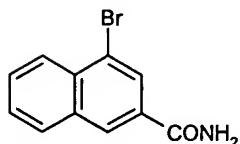
e3) adding a solution of Me_2AlNH_2 to a solution of the bromonaphthoate compound in a high-boiling solvent and heating the mixture to reflux, followed by rapid conversion to the cyano compound ~~direct conversion of compound (11) to compound (12).~~

7. (Currently Amended) The compound of formula (20)



(20) .

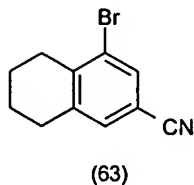
8. (Currently Amended) The compound of formula (18)



(18) .

9. (Currently Amended) The compound which is 3-bromo-5-coumalonitrile. ~~(27)~~

10. (Currently Amended) The compound of formula (63)



11. (New) The process according to claim 4, wherein the strongly acid dehydrating media is oleum.

12. (New) The process according to claim 6, wherein the high-boiling solvent is m-xylene.

13. (New) The bromonaphthoate compound of formula (11),

